

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A sheet feeder comprising:
  - a sheet tray body disposed in such a way as to rotate around a shaft, which is provided in such a manner as to be nearly perpendicular to a sheet mounting surface, and enabled to be accommodated in a sheet feeder body;
  - a stepped portion provided in said sheet tray body in such a fashion as to be placed in a connection portion, in which said sheet tray body and an upper edge part of a sheet mounting portion of said sheet feeder body are connected to each other, when said sheet tray body is used; and
  - a thrusting member provided on a rear surface of said sheet tray body for frontwardly pushing said sheet tray body when said sheet tray is used thereby allowing said sheet tray to be retained in an open position, wherein the thrusting member abuts a back cover of said sheet feeder, when said sheet tray body is used and pushes the sheet tray body towards the sheet mounting surface,  
wherein said back cover is part of a main body of said sheet feeder and is configured to cover at least one internal component of said sheet feeder.
2. (Original) The sheet feeder according to claim 1, wherein said thrusting member includes an abutting rib, provided on a rear surface of said sheet tray body in such a manner as to be integral with said sheet tray body, for frontwardly pushing said sheet tray body by abutting against said sheet feeder body as said sheet tray body turns.
3. (Original) The sheet feeder according to claim 1, wherein said upper edge part of said sheet feeder body has a tapered shape.
4. (Currently Amended) A sheet tray comprising:
  - a sheet tray body disposed in such a way as to be able to rotate around a shaft, which is provided in such a manner as to be nearly perpendicular to a sheet mounting surface, and enabled to be accommodated in a sheet feeder body;

a stepped portion provided in said sheet tray body in such a fashion as to be placed in a connection portion, in which said sheet tray body and an upper edge part of a sheet mounting portion of said sheet feeder body are connected to each other, when said sheet tray body is used; and

a thrusting member provided on a rear surface of said sheet tray body for frontwardly pushing said sheet tray body when said sheet tray body is used thereby allowing said sheet tray to be retained in an open position, wherein the thrusting member abuts a back cover of a sheet feeder of said sheet tray, when said sheet tray body is used and pushes the sheet tray body towards the sheet mounting surface, wherein said back cover is part of a main body of said sheet feeder and is configured to cover at least one internal component of said sheet feeder.

5. (Currently Amended) A sheet feeder comprising:

a sheet tray body rotatably provided and enabled to be accommodated in a sheet feeder body;

a stepped portion provided in said sheet tray body in such a fashion as to be placed in a connection portion, in which said sheet tray body and an upper edge part of a sheet mounting portion of said sheet feeder body are connected to each other, when said sheet tray body is used; and

a thrusting member provided on a rear surface of said sheet tray body for frontwardly pushing said sheet tray body when said sheet tray body is used thereby allowing said sheet tray to be retained in an open position, wherein the thrusting member abuts a back cover of said sheet feeder, when said sheet tray body is used and pushes the sheet tray body towards the sheet mounting surface, wherein said back cover is part of a main body of said sheet feeder and is configured to cover at least one internal component of said sheet feeder.

6. (Previously Presented) The sheet feeder according to claim 1, wherein said stepped portion is formed on the sheet tray body at the side where the sheet mounting portion is disposed, thereby eliminating the difference in level between the sheet mounting portion and the sheet mounting surface.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) The sheet feeder according to claim 3, wherein said sheet mounting portion at the upper edge part is less in thickness than the depth of the stepped portion.
9. (Previously Presented) The sheet tray according to claim 4, wherein said stepped portion is formed on the sheet tray body at the side where the sheet mounting portion is disposed, thereby eliminating the difference in level between the sheet mounting portion and the sheet mounting surface.
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Previously Presented) The sheet feeder according to claim 5, wherein said stepped portion is formed on the sheet tray body at the side where the sheet mounting portion is disposed, thereby eliminating the difference in level between the sheet mounting portion and a sheet mounting surface.
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Currently Amended) A sheet feeder comprising:
  - a sheet tray body disposed in such a way as to rotate around a shaft, which is provided in such a manner as to be nearly perpendicular to a sheet mounting surface, and enabled to be accommodated in a sheet feeder body;
  - a stepped portion provided in said sheet tray body in such a fashion as to be placed in a connection portion, in which said sheet tray body and an upper edge part of a sheet mounting portion of said sheet feeder body are connected to each other, when said sheet tray body is used, wherein said stepped portion is formed on the sheet tray body at the side where the sheet mounting portion is disposed, thereby eliminating a difference in level between the sheet mounting portion and the sheet mounting surface; and
  - a thrusting member provided on a rear surface of said sheet tray body for frontwardly pushing said sheet tray body when said sheet tray is used thereby allowing said sheet tray to be retained in an open position, wherein the thrusting member abuts a back cover of said sheet feeder, when said sheet tray body is used and pushes the sheet tray body towards the sheet mounting surface wherein said stepped portion is formed on the sheet tray body at the side where the sheet mounting

portion is disposed, thereby eliminating a difference in level between the sheet mounting portion and the sheet mounting surface,  
wherein said back cover is part of a main body of said sheet feeder and is configured to cover at least one internal component of said sheet feeder.